

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:  
current location information receiving means for receiving location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;  
current location management means for storing location information received by said current location information receiving means;  
server information receiving means for receiving server information regarding ~~a at least one~~ domain name system server to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including an IP address;  
server management means for storing the server information received by said server information receiving means;  
request receiving means for receiving [[an]] a domain name inquiry request to [[a]] the at least one domain name system server from a client and for storing a start time of the domain name inquiry request;  
request transferring means for transferring the domain name inquiry request received by said request receiving means to the at least one domain name system server based on at least one of said location information and said server information;  
response receiving means for receiving a domain name inquiry response to the domain name inquiry request transferred by said request transferring means;  
server information changing means for rewriting said server information when rewriting of said server information occurs by the domain name inquiry response received by said response receiving means; and

request responding means for selecting a domain name system server in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response result corresponding to said domain name inquiry request based at least on the IP address included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and for sending the selected domain name inquiry response result corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

algorithm receiving means for receiving an algorithm for selecting said domain name inquiry response result;

algorithm management means for storing the algorithm received by said algorithm receiving means; and

algorithm processing means for selecting the domain name inquiry response result in said request responding means by using the algorithm stored in said algorithm management means.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry method comprising:

a first step of receiving the location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;

a second step of storing the location information received in said first step;

a third step of receiving server information regarding a at least one domain name system server to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including an IP address;

a fourth step of storing the server information received in said third step;

a fifth step of receiving [[an]] a domain name inquiry request to [[a]] the at least one domain name system server from a client and storing a start time of the domain name inquiry request;

a sixth step of transferring the domain name inquiry request received in said fifth step to the at least one domain name system server based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

a seventh step of receiving a domain name inquiry response to the domain name inquiry request transferred in said sixth step;

an eighth step of rewriting said server information when rewriting of said server information occurs by the domain name inquiry response received in said seventh step; and

a ninth step of selecting a domain name system server in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response result to said domain name inquiry request based at least on the IP address included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and sending the selected domain name inquiry response result corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry method according to Claim 3, further comprising:

a tenth step of receiving an algorithm for selecting said domain name inquiry response result;

an eleventh step of storing the algorithm received in said tenth step; and

a twelfth step of selecting the domain name inquiry response result in said ninth step by using the algorithm stored in said eleventh step.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium having a domain name system inquiry method recorded therein, the domain name system inquiry method comprising:

a first step of receiving ~~the~~ location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;

a second step of storing the location information received in said first step;

a third step of receiving server information regarding ~~a~~ at least one domain name system server to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including an IP address;

a fourth step of storing the server information received in said third step;

~~a fifth step of receiving [[an]] a domain name inquiry request to [[a]] the at least one domain name system server from a client and storing a start time of the domain name inquiry request;~~

a sixth step of transferring the domain name inquiry request received in said fifth step to the at least one domain name system server based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

~~a seventh step of receiving a domain name inquiry response to the domain name inquiry request transferred in said sixth step;~~

~~an eighth step of rewriting said server information when rewriting of said server information occurs by the domain name inquiry response received in said seventh step; and~~

a ninth step of selecting a domain name system server in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response result to said domain name inquiry request based at least on the IP address included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and sending the selected domain name inquiry response result corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:

current location information receiving mechanism configured to receive location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;

current location management mechanism configured to store location information received by said current location information receiving mechanism;

server information receiving mechanism configured to receive server information regarding a at least one domain name system server to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including an IP address;

server management mechanism configured to store the server information received by said server information receiving mechanism;

request receiving mechanism configured to receive [[an]] a domain name inquiry request to [[a]] the domain name system server from a client and to store a start time of the domain name inquiry request;

request transferring mechanism configured to transfer the domain name inquiry request received by said request receiving mechanism to the at least one domain name system server based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

response receiving mechanism configured to receive a domain name inquiry response to the domain name inquiry request transferred by said request transferring mechanism;

server information changing mechanism configured to rewrite said server information when rewriting of said server information occurs by the domain name inquiry response received by said response receiving mechanism; and

request responding mechanism configured to select a domain name system server in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response result corresponding to said domain name inquiry request based at least on the IP address included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and for sending to send the domain name inquiry response result corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus according to Claim [[5]] 6, further comprising:

algorithm receiving mechanism configured to receive an algorithm for selecting said domain name inquiry response result;

algorithm management mechanism configured to store the algorithm received by said algorithm receiving mechanism; and

algorithm processing section mechanism configured to select the domain name inquiry response result in said request responding mechanism by using the algorithm stored in said algorithm management mechanism.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:

current location information receiving means for receiving location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;

current location management means for storing location information received by said current location information receiving means;

server information receiving means for receiving server information regarding a at least one domain name system server to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including a failure counter;

server management means for storing the server information received by said server information receiving means;

request receiving ~~mechanism configured to receive an~~ means for receiving a domain name inquiry request to [[a]] the at least one domain name system server from a client and to store a start time of the domain name inquiry request;

request transferring means for transferring the domain name inquiry request received by said request receiving means to the at least one domain name system server based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

response receiving ~~mechanism configured to receive means for receiving a~~ domain name inquiry response to the domain name inquiry request transferred by said request transferring ~~mechanism~~ means;

server information changing means for rewriting said failure counter based on ~~at least one of the more than one~~ domain name inquiry response received by said response receiving means; and

request responding means for selecting a ~~particular one~~ domain name system server in that at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response from the more than one response to the domain name inquiry request based at least ~~in part~~ on the failure counter included in the server information

and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and for sending the particular one selected domain name inquiry response corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising:

algorithm receiving means for receiving an algorithm for selecting said particular one domain name inquiry response result;

algorithm management means for storing the algorithm received by said algorithm receiving means; and

algorithm processing means for selecting said particular one domain name inquiry response result in said request responding means by using the algorithm stored in said algorithm management means.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry method comprising:

receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;

storing the received location information;

receiving server information regarding a domain name system server to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including a failure counter;

storing the received server information;

receiving [[an]] a domain name inquiry request to a at least one domain name system server from a client and storing a start time of the domain name inquiry request;

transferring the received domain name inquiry request to the at least one domain name system server based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

receiving more than one domain name inquiry response to the transferred inquiry request;

rewriting said failure counter based on at least one of the more than one received domain name inquiry response; and

selecting a particular one domain name system server in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response from the more than one received response to the domain name inquiry request based at least in part on the failure counter included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and sending the particular one selected domain name inquiry response result corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry method according to Claim 10, further comprising:

receiving an algorithm for selecting said particular one domain name inquiry response result;

storing the received algorithm; and

selecting the particular one domain name inquiry response result by using the stored algorithm.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium having a domain name system inquiry method recorded therein, the domain name system inquiry method comprising:

receiving the location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;  
storing the received location information;  
receiving server information regarding a at least one domain name system server to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including a failure counter;  
storing the received server information;  
receiving [[an]] a domain name inquiry request to a the at least one domain name system server from a client and storing a start time of the domain name inquiry request;  
transferring the received domain name inquiry request to the at least one domain name system server based on at least one of said location information and said server information;  
receiving more than one domain name inquiry response to the transferred inquiry request;  
rewriting said failure counter based on at least one of the more than one received domain name inquiry response; and  
selecting a particular one domain name system server in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response ~~from the more than one received response to the domain name inquiry request based at least in part~~ on the failure counter included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and sending the particular one selected domain name inquiry response result corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:

a current location information receiving mechanism configured to receive location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;

a current location management mechanism configured to store location information received by said current location information receiving mechanism;

a server information receiving mechanism configured to receive server information regarding ~~a at least one~~ domain name system server to which an inquiry can be made, said server information including a failure counter;

a server management mechanism configured to store the server information received by said server information receiving mechanism;

a request receiving mechanism configured to receive [[an]] a domain name inquiry request to ~~a the at least one~~ domain name system server from a client and to store the start time of the domain name inquiry request;

a request transferring mechanism configured to transfer the domain name inquiry request received by said request receiving mechanism to the at least one domain name system server based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

a response receiving mechanism configured to receive more than one domain name inquiry response to the domain name inquiry request transferred by said request transferring mechanism;

a server information changing mechanism configured to rewrite said failure counter based on at least one of the more than one domain name inquiry response received by said response receiving mechanism; and

a request responding mechanism configured to select a particular one domain name system server in the at least one domain name system server corresponding to the domain name inquiry response from the more than one response to said domain name inquiry request based at least in part on the failure counter included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request and for sending to send the particular one selected domain name inquiry response corresponding to the selected domain name system server to said client.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus according to Claim 13, further comprising:

an algorithm receiving mechanism configured to receive an algorithm for selecting said particular one domain name inquiry response result;

an algorithm management mechanism configured to store the algorithm received by said algorithm receiving mechanism; and

an algorithm processing mechanism configured to select the particular one domain name inquiry response result in said request responding mechanism by using the algorithm stored in said algorithm management mechanism.